रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने उक्त संकल्प के बारे में रेल मंत्रालय को कोई सूचना नहीं दी है

(ख) और (ग) प्रस्तावित लाइन मात्र स्टील अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा भिलाई को लौह अयस्क के संचलन के लिए अपेक्षित है । इसका सर्वेक्षण पूरा कर लिया गया है और लागत की सूचना इस्पात मंत्रालय को दे दी गई है । इस लाइन के लिए जैसे ही इस्पात मंत्रालय/स्टील अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड द्वारा धन की व्यवस्था कर दी जाती है, इसका निर्माण कार्य शुरू किया जा सकता है ।

Opening of New Railway Division in Western Railways

739. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for opening new divisions in Western Railway and other Railways have been received by Government so far;

(b) how many of them have been accepted; and

(c) the criteria adopted for opening new Divisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Since January 1990 Ministry of Railways have received proposals for the creation of 12 new railway divisional headquarters including one each at Gandhidham and Ahmedabad on Western Railway.

(b) Except for the proposal pertaining to creation of a new divisional headquarters at Nanded which had been approved by the Ministry of Railways earlier, no other proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(c) New Railway Divisions are set-up taking into consideration the size, workload, growth and pattern of traffic and other operational requirements of the existing divisions consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

Taking over of Bhavnagar Vegetable Oil Company

740. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1977-78 NDDB took over a privately owned Bhavnagar Vegetable Oil Company, which was lying closed and in liquidation in defiance of clear instructions from Agriculture Ministry and if so, the corrective action taken if any, inidcating the amount paid by NDDB and sources of this payment;

(b) the money spent so far on this unit for its modernisation indicating its capacity for refining etc. in 1978 and at present and the utilisation percentage of capacity annually since takeover; and

(c) whether CAG would be asked to make a special audit of these operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) At no time did the Ministry of Agriculture advice NDDB not to take over the Bhavnagar Vegetable Oil Company. The interim management of the Company (in liquidation at that time) was handed over to NDDB as per the order of Gujarat High Court in December, 1977.

The NDDB has paid Rs. Two crores eleven lakhs ninety three thousand and seventy one and paise seventy only towards acquisition. The NDDB has funded the acquisition from its Vegetable Oil Project funds.

(b) A total amount of Rs. 409 lakhs have been spent so far to bring the plant to operational level and for expansion and modernisation of the Unit (capacity and capacity utilisation indicated in the Statement attached). (*See* below)